

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the election of species requirement set forth in the Office Action of July 18, 2007.

A careful review of the specification reveals that the various embodiments are closely related and do not require separate fields of search. Accordingly, neither Applicant nor the Patent and Trademark Office should be put to the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the public at large should not be required to obtain and study several separate patent documents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering the invention.

Nevertheless, pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. §809.2(a), Applicant provisionally elects the subject matter of Species d, Figure 5. It is submitted that Claims 1-10 read on the elected species.

Examination on the merits and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

In the Preliminary Amendment, Claim 1, belonging to elected Species d, has been amended.

Applicant is submitting concurrently herewith a Submission of Replacement Sheet of Drawings, with Figure 13 labelled as --PRIOR ART--. Approval of the Replacement Sheet is respectfully requested.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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